

**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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ENGLISH ONLY

REGIONAL BIO-BRIDGE INITIATIVE ROUND
TABLE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Bogota, Colombia, 27-29 November 2017

REGIONAL DIALOGUE AND LEARNING MISSION
ON INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION
AND BIODIVERSITY ACTION AT THE NATIONAL
LEVEL IN SOUTH AMERICA
Bogota, Colombia, 27 November to 1 December 2017

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

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1. OPENING OF THE MEETINGS

The Regional Bio-Bridge Initiative Round Table for Latin America and the Caribbean will be held in Bogota, Colombia from Monday, 27 November to Wednesday, 29 November 2017 and the Regional Dialogue and Learning Mission on Integrating Climate Change Action and Biodiversity Action at the National Level in South America will be held at the same venue from Monday, 27 November to Friday, 1 December 2017.

The meetings will start at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, 27 November, and registration will take place at the venue of the meetings at 8:30 a.m. the same day.

2. VENUE

The meetings will be held at:

Habitel Hotel

Av. El Dorado #100-97

Bogotá, Cundinamarca, Colombia

Telephone: +57 1 4199999

Website: <http://www.hotelhabitel.com/>

The Regional Bio-Bridge Initiative Round Table for Latin America and the Caribbean will be held in *Salon Amacayacu*.

The Regional Dialogue and Learning Mission on Integrating Climate Change Action and Biodiversity Action at the National Level in South America will be held in *Salon Colombia A*.

3. WORKING LANGUAGE OF THE MEETINGS

The Regional Bio-Bridge Initiative Round Table for Latin America and the Caribbean will be held in English and Spanish with interpretation.

The Regional Dialogue and Learning Mission on Integrating Climate Change Action and Biodiversity Action at the National Level in South America will be held only in Spanish.

4. DOCUMENTS

Participants are kindly reminded to bring their own copies of the documents for the meetings as there will be no extra copies made available on site. Documents are available on the following web pages:



Bio-Bridge: <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/TSCWS-2017-03>

Climate Change: <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/CCBOM-2017-02>

5. GENERAL INFORMATION ON ACCESS TO BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

Bogota is serviced by the El Dorado International Airport (13 km from downtown). Taxis are available at the airport at a cost of about US \$6.00 -10.00 and the journey takes about 30-40 minutes. It is recommended to book taxis within the terminal to pay fixed rates. The **Habitel Hotel** offers a free shuttle service to and from the airport, please contact the hotel directly for arrangements.

Please note that there is a departure tax of about US \$38 for international flights leaving Colombia which must be paid in cash in US dollars or in Colombia pesos (approx. COP 115,000).

6. VISA INFORMATION

Colombia and all other participants are strongly advised to contact the nearest Colombian diplomatic or consular mission as soon as possible in order to secure the required entry visa in a timely manner, prior to departure. **Please note that airline companies will not allow boarding in the absence of a valid visa.**

Information on visa procedures is available on the web site of the Ministry of External Relations of Colombia at: http://www.cancilleria.gov.co/en/procedures_services/visas. The on-line visa application form can be found at the following link: <https://tramitesmre.cancilleria.gov.co/tramites/enlinea/solicitarVisa.xhtml>. A list of relevant Colombia diplomatic/consular missions abroad, is available on the web site of the Ministry of External Relations of Colombia (in Spanish) at: <https://tramites.cancilleria.gov.co/ciudadano/directorio/Misiones/enExterior.aspx>.

To facilitate the issuance of visas, the Secretariat will issue upon request invitation letters to be attached to the visa applications.

7. HOTEL INFORMATION

A block booking has been made at the Habitel Hotel (meeting venue) on behalf of all funded participants according to your flight arrangements. Any extra personal expenses incurred, such as room upgrades, Internet access, laundry, phone calls, room service, mini-bar, etc., are the sole responsibility of the participants

Non-funded participants may avail themselves of the block booking by contacting the Habitel Hotel directly. A special negotiated rate is offered for non-funded participants at a rate of approximately US \$77 per night not including taxes. The hotel details are listed below:

Habitel Hotel

Av. El Dorado #100-97

Bogotá, Cundinamarca, Colombia

Telephone: +57 1 4199999

Website: <http://www.hotelhabitel.com/>

Further information on Bogota is available at the following web-site:

<http://english.bogotaturismo.gov.co/>

8. FIELD TRIPS FOR THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE REGIONAL DIALOGUE MEETING

Two field trips will be organized during the Regional Dialogue and Learning Mission on Integrating Climate Change Action and Biodiversity Action at the National Level in South America meeting, tentatively on Wednesday and Thursday. Please bring warm clothing and appropriate footwear for outdoor activities. Details of the field trips will be provided in due course.

9. PAYMENT OF THE DAILY SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE (DSA)

Funded participants will receive the relevant portion of their DSA by way of a Swiss credit card (international MasterCard) on the first day of the meeting. Detailed instructions on how these cards work will be provided on site.

10. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IN COLOMBIA

The official language in Colombia is Spanish. English is understood in some hotels and restaurants.

11. WEATHER AND TIME ZONE INFORMATION



In November, temperatures in Bogota usually range between a maximum of +16°C in the daytime and a minimum of +7°C at night. Please bring warm clothing for cold and rainy weather. Current weather conditions in the area can be found at: <http://www.worldweather.org/057/c00157.htm>.

The standard time zone is GMT/UTC -5 hours.

12. ELECTRICITY

The electrical currents in Colombia are 110-120 volts, 60 Hertz as shown in the illustrations below.



13. CURRENCY



The currency in Colombia is the Colombian Pesos (COP). The current exchange rate as at 9 November 2017 is US \$1 = COP 3,009.95 and (Euro) € 1 = COP 3,504.66.

Currency exchange facilities are available in banks and hotels, local currency can be obtained on most ATM machines.

14. DISCLAIMER

The CBD Secretariat disclaims all responsibility for medical, accident and travel insurance, for compensation for death or disability compensation, for loss of or damage to personal property and for any other loss that may be incurred during travel time or the period of participation. In this context, it is strongly recommended to secure international medical, accident and travel insurance for the period of participation prior to departure.

ANNEX A – COUNTRY LISTING

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WHOSE CITIZENS DO NOT REQUIRE VISAS IN ORDER TO ENTER COLOMBIA AS VISITORS (AS LISTED ON THE WEB SITE OF THE EMBASSY OF COLOMBIA)

Citizens of the following countries and territories do not require a visa to **visit** or **transit** Colombia:

A

Andorra
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan

B

Bahamas
Barbados
Belgium
Belize
Bhutan
Bolivia
Brazil
Brunei Darussalam
Bulgaria

C

Canada
Chile
Costa Rica
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic

D

Denmark
Dominica
Dominican Republic

E

Ecuador
El Salvador
Estonia

F

Fiji
Finland
France

G

Georgia
Germany
Grenada
Greece
Guatemala
Guyana

H

Holy See
Honduras
Hungary

I

Iceland
Indonesia
Ireland
Israel
Italy

J

Jamaica
Japan

K

Kazakhstan
Korea, Republic of

L

Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg

M

Malaysia
Malta
Marshall Islands
Montenegro
Mexico
Micronesia, Federated States of
Monaco

N

Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway

P

Palau
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal

Q

Qatar

R

Romania
Russian Federation

S

Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Samoa
San Marino
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
Solomon Islands
South Africa
Spain
Suriname
Sweden
Switzerland

T

Trinidad and Tobago
Turkey

U

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Arab Emirates
United States of America
Uruguay

V

Venezuela

